

The Lemon Grove REVIEW

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Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Tuesday, March 5, 1996 25¢

Waiting for My Best Friend

by Cynthia O'Neill

I knew I had to ask questions when I started perusing the classifieds under "Just Seeking a Friend."

The movie "Waiting to Exhale" had made me envious. On the big screen, I watched four friends cry, laugh, swear and party together while I gritted my teeth and rubbed my nose raw with tissues.

Here I am, 38 years old, still at a loss for defining exactly what is a best friend.

I wonder if being Anglo-Saxon has anything to do with it. Some say the four friends in the movie are bound together by the tribulations of finding Mr. Right. They say that black men have a handle on giving women headaches and heartaches. But I need more than two hands and two feet to count the number of white men who made women



Seinfeld and his best friends

miserable, who wouldn't make a commitment to love them 'til the ocean dried up.

As a happily married woman, I can't rely on that old excuse anymore for not having the perfect life. Instead, not having a very best friend preoccupies me. To make matters worse, the most popular sitcoms on TV these days are about friendships. Seinfeld and company waltz each other



Cynthia O'Neill (right) with her best friend and little sister, Patricia, circa 1965.

through a myriad of personal crises, laughing all the way.

I do have friends, lots of them. But not since I was 25 years old have I had a best friend to interact with on a daily basis.

So I called up four women — friends of mine — whom I believe have just as much savvy as the characters in "Waiting," "Seinfeld" or "Friends."

It sure beat panic.

Barbara York is a sculptor who has lived in the same house in Santee for 26 years. She raised her children, is now a grandmother, and has stayed happily married to the same man. Yet she's no Pollyanna.

She told me she had the same best friend from the time she was 12 until she was 33 years old.

"We shared about everything, about boyfriends, then marriage, kids and sex life," she said. "We used to go camping together, our kids were together all the time. For 20 years, we were inseparable."

All that ended one afternoon, when this best friend slept with Barbara's father. Just four months after Barbara's mother had died.

Barbara said her father was a very sick man and she was, in fact, a victim of incest by him. She had told her best friend all about it.

"I had trusted my best friend with everything," she said. "After she slept with my father, I had a hard time in knowing who or if to trust anyone."

Since then, it's been a slow process of forming friendships. She's met lots of fellow artists and women from various self-help groups.

"And even though I don't have that special friend any more, and

still miss that feeling, still get that ache sometimes, I'm okay now," she said.

Her youngest sister, who, at 15 years old, had stumbled onto her father's bedroom scene with Barbara's friend, continues to be one of her closest friends. They talk to each other at least once a week.

Still, Barbara sometimes envies the extra closeness that women of color seem to experience.

"When you think about it, women of other ethnic groups have a history," she told me. "I don't know what my history is. I feel like a Heinz 57 mutt."

I called Petra McElfresh, who recently celebrated her fourth anniversary with her husband. She met him after she and her roommate were robbed.

The policeman who answered the call ended up marrying her.

Petra is from Germany. At 30, she is a vibrant butterfly, having travelled throughout South America, Mexico and southern California.

Germans don't let the sunny side of themselves come out, Petra told me. They are very strict, very serious, very studious. She found it easy to make friends at Grossmont College.

But Petra has had to learn exactly whom to trust, especially in the job arena.

"Everyone is very friendly at first, but there's that sense of competition in everything you

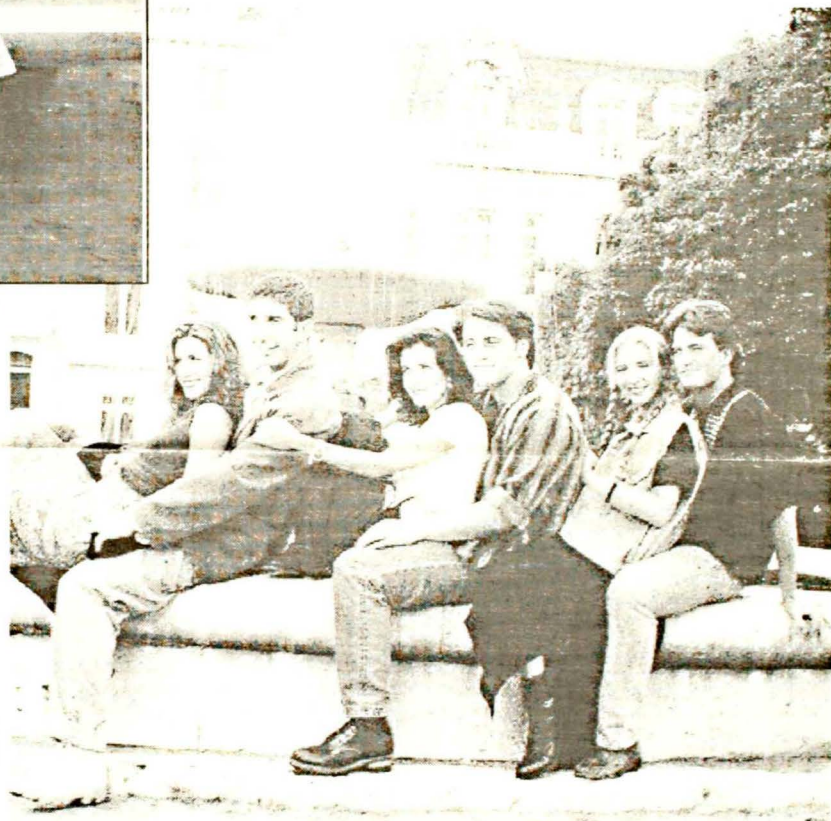
do," she said. "In Germany, everyone works from 9 to 6, but here everyone lives on a different schedule. That causes a lot of distance between people."

In Germany, if you want to drop in to see a friend, you just show up. Immediately, there is coffee or tea to be made and a welcomed coffee klatsch. Petra's husband tells her in America, you have to call first.

When people experience bad

good as the others. It doesn't matter at what stage in my life or how long we haven't spoken to each other, when we see each other again after weeks or months, or even years, it's like the time hasn't even passed. In fact, there's so much to catch up on, it's more exciting."

She said when she hears other women describing their best friends, it's as if they feel like they're married; they feel like that



The cast of "Friends" having a great time

times, they tend to stick together. In Germany's war experience, people needed each other and learned to stick together.

Petra laughs when everyone complains about the rainy winters in San Diego. In Germany, it rains constantly, six months without sun. The clouds, so dark and gray, seem to match the people's personalities, she said.

"I've seen how different countries are, and no matter what, there's always going to be something you don't like," she told me. "You just have to accept it. Go for your dream anyway. That's what I do. Even when I feel lonely, I just keep reaching out there."

Stacey Scott invited me out to her apartment in El Cajon. She lights candles when somebody comes over to visit. She is 30-something, no children, doesn't plan on any.

Settling down in a chair, sipping Harvest Spice tea, she curled up like the cat nestled in her couch.

"To me, to have one single best friend is too exclusive," she said. "All my friends are just as

somebody is always going to be there. But that puts a lot of strain on the both of them and any other future friends.

Stacey knows exactly how to get people together. One of her favorite things is to get friends together to cook a meal. Everybody has a niche. Laurie grates the cheese, somebody else peels the vegetables. Everybody has a function.

"There is nothing like a bunch of women all together, it's a high that I get," she said. "No, the word I'm looking for — empowering. I feel so glad to be female, to have that special feminine spirit."

Stacey has it all worked out. Friends are like flowers in a garden. You can never have too many, but if you have a ton of rare orchids in your garden, it will be hard to take care of them all. So there are high- and low-maintenance friends.

She is also cautious about using the word, "friend." When people say "friend," they really mean "acquaintance," someone they've talked to a couple of

Continued on Page 3

College Notes

While several colleges and universities announced recently that they are cutting tuition for the next academic year, thus reversing a trend in college costs over the past few decades, a number of private lenders are also offering programs that make college more affordable.

One such money-saving program is the **Great Rewards Program**, which can save student borrowers hundreds, even thousands of dollars on their education loans. Offered by lenders that partner with **Sallie Mae**, the **Great Rewards Program** reduces a federal Stafford Loan interest rate by two full percentage points for the remaining term of the loan after the initial 48 scheduled payments are made on time. A typical borrower with \$20,000 in student loans would save \$1,156 at current interest rates (8.25 percent) over a 10-year repayment term.

The **Direct Repay SM Plan** offers further savings. When borrowers authorize Sallie Mae to automatically transfer their monthly loan payment from their checking or savings account, they'll have their loan interest rate cut by 1/4 percent for as long as they remain in the plan. For the student who borrowed \$20,000, Direct Repay would save a total of \$483 in interest payments.

Through the combination of Great Rewards, Great Returns and Direct Repay, student borrowers receive the cheapest student loans anywhere. Borrowers with \$20,000 in loans save a total of more than \$2,000 — or as much as 8 percent of their total financing costs — through these money-saving borrower benefits.

Banks that partner with Sallie Mae also offer borrowers an array of flexible repayment options and toll-free customer service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Letters to the Editor

Attacks on Jacob just malicious

I believe that the recent attacks upon Supervisor Dianne Jacob by her opponent are nothing less than malicious. The recent articles that appeared in your paper, alleged that Supervisor Jacob was inaccessible. Apparently her opponent hasn't been to any of Supervisor Jacob's early morning gripe sessions at the local coffee houses. As a long time business owner I recently discovered, when my wife opened a new business in Spring Valley, that the process has been made many times easier as a result of Supervisor Jacob's work. It is time for the people to express their displeasure for these negative attacks. The positive accomplishments of Supervisor Jacob speak loud and clear.

JACK KALMAN
El Cajon

Follow the leader

Pundits tell us that America is looking for leadership, that we're hungry for a hero to set the example and to call upon the best from all of us. They should ask the American Red Cross.

We at the Red Cross know that it isn't very difficult to find a hero. We encounter them every day in disaster shelters, at neighborhood swimming pools, in bloodmobiles. You know them, too. They are your neighbors, your friends, your co-workers and your families. The Red Cross calls them "everyday heroes." A number of things can be said about these everyday heroes, but they share two important and outstanding qualities.

First, they are prepared to respond to emergency situations. Red Cross classes are filled with people who want to know how to keep their mother or father alive in the event of a heart attack. In the midst of floods and hurricanes, the rubble of earthquakes or the ashes of fire, the Red Cross is there because thousands of people have taken the time to train for disasters.

The second unique aspect of our everyday heroes is that although they are prepared for emergencies, they don't set out to be heroes. They do it because they don't want to stand helplessly by and watch someone die who could be saved. They do it because their compassion propels them to immediate action.

We at the Red Cross know that heroes aren't so hard to find. Even more important, there's a potential hero in each of us, if only we are prepared to respond when we hear the call.

DODIE ROTHERHAM
Chief Executive Officer, San Diego Red Cross Chapter



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WEATHER

The following information was provided by the Lemon Grove Fire Department.

	High	Low
February 25	52	45
February 26	57	41
February 27	59	40
February 28	61	46
February 29	67	39
March 1	75	40
March 2	75	45

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEES SALE. TS No. 95-0586-0108 Loan No. 1324602 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 8/29/93 UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 3/12/96 at 10:00 AM, Lonestar Mortgage Assistant Corp., as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 8/19/93, as Instrument No. 1993-0516909, in book —, page —, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Diego County, State of California, Executed by Thomas C. Mendola and Melba C. Mendola, husband and wife as Joint Tenants will sell at public auction to highest bidder for cash (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States) At the South entrance to the County Courthouse, 220 West Broadway, San Diego, California. (Note: Cashier's check(s) must be made payable to Lonestar Mortgage Assistant Corp. all night, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: As more fully described in the above mentioned Deed of Trust, APN # 577-120-13 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1890 Skyline Drive Lemon Grove, California 91945. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$136,271.80. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. Date: February 05, 1996. Lonestar Mortgage Assistant Corp., as Trustee, Sanara A. Brannan, Authorized Signature, Address: P.O. Box 515388, Dallas, Texas 75251-5388. For Trustee's Sale information please call (972) 367-7722. LONESTAR MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ASAP193943 2/20/227,35

The Lemon Grove Review

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B Words

Personal comments from Mayor Bob Burns

"Wizard of Oz" coming in May

If anyone wants to label this column as a commercial, then so be it. I do not recall that I have ever consciously advocated that people spend money for something that I personally benefitted financially from, except for my Veterinary services, of course. Since all of the actors are not paid in this charitable project put on by St. John of the Cross Church, I have no qualms about recommending it here.

I am referring to the second annual theater production put on by the church's youth group, "The Wizard of Oz." It will be presented on the weekends of May 10 - 12 and 17 - 19 at the church hall on Columbus Place (across the street from St. John's Church.)

I had the pleasure of having a small part in last year's "Lil Abner" spectacle (the Mayor of Dogpatch), and coincidentally will be seen as Lord Growlie, the Mayor of Oz in this production. Must be type casting, don't you think?

Rehearsals are in full swing, and the show promises to be a real treat with all of the children in the cast. You must remember that there were a lot of Munchkins, and typically our catholic families have provided a lot of material for the casting director. They are just so much fun to work with, and the "stars" of last year's epic, Jeremy Heggenberger, and Audrey Rynberg are back full of youthful enthusiasm and talent. One of the benefits of having a lot of children in a play is that you are assured of having the parents and grandparents show up for the performances, often every one of them. An axiom of show biz is that the fuller the house, the greater the performances, and it is surely true where children are involved in the show.

There are a few old fogies like myself, to do the "old people" parts, but not many. The youthful Trish, our director, and Tish who choreographs the dancing, are very effective, and rule with, I was going to say an iron hand, but it is more like with a wooden ruler like the Nuns of my day used on us in grade school. Whatever, they are just great at getting everyone to work and play together.

Everyone has seen the movie, "The Wizard of Oz," many times, and can imagine the music and fun that the play produces. It promises to be very colorful in the costuming and will be real family entertainment. Our hope, at St. John's is that by exposing the children of our community to some wholesome entertainment, we can increase their appreciation of things other than the violence and smut that passes for same on TV and at the movies. Also, if young people can become interested in the performing arts, there will be wider benefits in study habits, work ethic, and self esteem. It is surprising how often the most reticent and shy child, just blossoms and comes alive on the stage. This kind of activity can awaken talents, or instill confidences that can effect life-long attributes.

Watch for the flyers, and put these two weekends on your calendar, and be assured of lots of good clean fun. I know that you all have hearts, and brains, and courage, but maybe there is something else that you might like to ask the Wizard for in your own personal life. It is rumored that he will be available after each performance to consider such requests ...

Community Notes

Poll workers urgently needed

Mikel Haas, Acting Registrar of Voters is urgently looking for people willing to work at the polls on election day. It takes 6500 citizens to staff the over 1400 polls that will be open on Tuesday, March 26, 1996 for the presidential primary election.

Poll workers receive between \$35 and \$50 for their day of service, depending upon the job assigned at the voting location. The real compensation, however, is the satisfaction of performing a valuable community service. Polls will be open for voting between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Workers are expected to serve the entire voting day.

Working at the polls is a good way for people to become involved in the political process, meet their neighbors and provide a real service to their community.

For details, contact the Registrar of Voters office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 694-3400.

Supervisory candidates to address ECBC

The East County Business Council will hold a forum with the Second District supervisor candidates at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at the Lakeside Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 12650 Lindo Ln., on the southeast side of Lindo Park in Lakeside.

The public is invited to attend and is encouraged to take part in a question and answer session on the issues affecting the San Diego County Second District.

The ECBC is a non-political, non-profit group made up of business owners from the East County. For more information, contact Lex Boswell at 443-4952.

Burn fat, not hydrocarbons!
Bike to work.

Best Friend

Continued from Page 1

times.

"A friend is someone you've found a common ground with," she told me. "Friendship takes nurturing, keeping in touch, just a phone call to say you're thinking of them."

Cathy Roth, wife and mother of two sons, thought long and hard about whether a girl should just stop hoping for the kind of friends you see in movies and on TV.

We sat down on the floor in a room of her El Cajon home where photographs from her college days adorn the walls.

"No, don't give up," she finally told me. "But you shouldn't focus on it either, otherwise nothing really gets done, and you'll find yourself very frustrated."

Cathy said some of the problem comes from deciding what a best friend is. A woman may or may not be fortunate enough to have a best friend, and it would have nothing at all to do with her personality. No one should try to change her personality to get a best friend, because a true friend accepts everything about you.

On the other hand, there may be that secret closed-off place in your heart that you have to protect. There's always the risk of your friend saying, "Why didn't you tell me about that before" and getting angry. Having a best friend doesn't guarantee anything.

Cathy's tall, 16-year-old son walked between us on his way to the kitchen. He ruffled her hair. She swatted his back with a manila folder. They laughed.

"You can't expect to have a friend like you see in movies or read about in books," she said. "I had one in my college days, and then we grew apart."

She thought a bit longer, looked down at the pile of papers in front of her.

"But though we may never see each other again, there will always be that special place in my heart just for her," she said.

Cathy said women can talk about their husbands as their best friends, but it's not the same thing.

"You know to be honest, a best friend is about on the same level as your first true love," she told me. "It's such a once in a lifetime experience. So never shut the door on the possibility."

After having talked to these women, all of whom struck a note of music in my heart, I felt stronger both as a woman and as a friend.

I understand better now that I'm really no different from the women in "Waiting to Exhale" nor from the clan of "Friends." Besides, they're on the tube or on the big screen whereas I'm here in the big picture, life.

I'll forego the classifieds, just enjoy the friendships I do have. Just as in Diana Ross' song that I can't hurry love, I can't hurry along a best friend. She won't materialize in a half hour like on TV. ☺

Washington searches for the world's best granny

The search is on to find the world's greatest granny.

The Washington Apple Commission announced the official beginning of its annual "Search For Granny Smith" — a nationwide hunt to find the perfect grandmother to promote the state's famous green fruit.

"We're looking for on-the-go grannies," said Jim Thomas, search coordinator for the commission. "Someone who personifies the healthful attributes of our apples."

Thomas said a successful candidate should meet the following guidelines:

- Be sweet to the core and have good moral fiber.
- Be handpicked by children, grandchildren, spouse or friends.
- Have beauty that's more than skin deep, and just the right amount of maturity.
- Have "a-peel."

Those wishing to nominate a noteworthy grandma should write, in 100 words or less, why the nominee should be considered and enclose a non-returnable photo. Nominations should be sent to Granny Smith, P.O. Box 18, Wenatchee, WA. 98807, and received no later than April 15, 1996.

"We've extended the deadline this year so more grannies can participate," said Thomas. "Nom-

inees don't need to have the last name "Smith", and the photos sent to us, like our Granny Smith apples, should be in good taste."

Last year's winner was 71-year-old Ginny Walsh of Richmond, TX., a floral designer who works with handicapped kids. Walsh was selected out of thousands of entries from all 50 states to be the official "spokesgranny" for Washington's apple growers.

She's been busy.

"It's been a lot of fun," Walsh said. "I've been doing lots of TV appearances, talking to senior groups and have traveled quite a bit. Getting to meet so many people and seeing a lot of the country has been a tremendous experience."

Fifteen grandmothers, and the person who nominated each of them, will be chosen to participate in the "Granny Finale," held in May at the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival in Wenatchee, WA. Finalists will be interviewed by a board of apple growers named "Smith" and celebrities, who will pick the national Granny Smith winner.

The winner will be featured on grocery store posters and make promotional appearances in the upcoming year. Airfare and trip expenses will be picked up by the apple commission.

Reel thoughts

'Reilly' breaks tradition of quality

by Betty Jo Tucker

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale of good versus evil, usually transfers to the screen in exciting, suspenseful film treatments. In 1920, John Barrymore brought Jekyll and Hyde to life in an acclaimed performance. Without relying on excessive makeup, he just contorted his body to become the nefarious Hyde.

Frederic March won an Oscar in 1932 for his Jekyll/Hyde interpretation. In 1941, Spencer Tracy held audiences spellbound when he changed from good Dr. Jekyll to the murderous Hyde.

Unfortunately, "Mary Reilly," film noir's newest Jekyll/Hyde version, breaks this tradition of quality. In fact, after seeing this dreadful film, I had a terrible nightmare. I dreamed someone forced me to sit through it one more time!

Julia Roberts plays a chambermaid attracted to both Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. More pouty woman than pretty woman in this movie, her most dramatic emotion seems to be unrelenting list-



Julia Roberts stars as Mary Reilly, strangely attracted to John Malkovich's Mr. Hyde.

lessness. John Malkovich ("Dangerous Liaisons," "Places of the Heart"), as Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde, thinks all he needs to transform his character is a moustache, a beard and (sometimes) a louder voice.

Billed as a "gothic horror thriller," only one scene even comes close to frightening the audience. When Dr. Jekyll's kitchen staff prepares an eel for cooking, a few moviegoers will gasp or close their eyes. Murky cine-

matography, a musical score even more boring than the rest of the film, and a demeaning cameo by the previously wonderful Glenn Close add to the dreariness of this film experience.

Finding any depth of meaning in "Mary Reilly" can be difficult indeed, but one disgruntled pre-viewer described this movie as "a story about the triumph of evil over evil." (That spinning noise you hear is Robert Louis Stevenson turning over in his grave.)

PG Perspectives

by Phillip Giannangeli

If you're male, anywhere around the age of fifty, and you hear the word digital, you tend to tense up. It has to do with a certain medical exam. But fear not, the digital in this column has nothing to do with latex gloves, lubricant, or bending over an examination table. This digital refers to a camera. A digital camera. And don't you worry my fellow latex glove phobics, this digital camera doesn't go anywhere near where you think it might. The digital camera I'm going to refer to is one that's perched on the top of a computer monitor. So guys, relax and read on in relief.

This latest technological madness (about which I will go into more detail in a moment) was brought to my attention by Mr. Alan Fedder. A co-worker and friend, Mr. Fedder (the appellation is a preference on my part, not his) is one of the most clever, helpful, and fiendish individuals I know. When I'm in need of assistance, unusual insights, or help on a plot of diabolical proportions, I'm off to see Mr. Fedder. He's the man. That's how this digital camera thing came to my attention.

Visiting Mr. Fedder recently in his domain (the school library), I wasn't so much in need of help or a plan on how to blow up the chemistry lab. I had just gone in to chat. We were discussing computers and things (his fields of expertise, not mine) and he happened to have a magazine that had a picture of this camera sitting on top of a computer. Mr. Fedder informed me it was a digital camera. This camera faces the operator of the computer and captures all the movements he or she makes and encodes them in some sort of electronic script.

It gets better. If a modem is hooked up to the computer and the individual is a subscriber to one of the on-line services on the net, anyone, anywhere along the line, can download the images from that

camera. As Mr. Fedder pointed out, a finger to the nose, a grimace from too much salsa, or any other activity the person seated in front of the camera engages in is recorded. It's kind of like an electronic peep hole; self installed no less, allowing others full access to all manner of private activities.

This, I told Mr. Fedder, could be the prelude to a future frighteningly described in Orwell's 1984 but not yet fully reached. Mr. Fedder nodded but seemed far more interested in the mechanics of the camera than the ramifications of my doomsday predictions.

I continued my ruminations. Imagine what that digital (I still don't know exactly what that word means in this context) camera could do with a wide angle lens. A lens that would show the entire landscape, so to speak, of the room where the computer was housed. It would be like a surveillance camera in every home office, den, alcove, or bedroom where a computer might be located.

The potentials for such a development are awesome. Big Brother tracking our every move. Privacy in front of, as well as on the computer, would become nonexistent. On the positive side, programs like "Hard Copy," "Inside Edition" and "A Current Affair" could be rendered obsolete if we have the capacity to really peek into people's private lives.

As I try to reconcile my feelings regarding this digital camera thing, I can just picture Mr. Fedder. He's smiling and telling his family that someday they'll be able to see this Giannangeli guy at his computer, probably sound asleep with a little spittle running down the side of his open mouth. After discussing the horror of that, they'd probably opt instead to download Martha Stewart struggling to defeather an ostrich while inputting her keen insights into her latest "Birds Are A Designer's Best Friend Guide to Better Living."

This paper is on the Web!

East County Online, the electronic version of this newspaper, can be accessed through San Diego OnLine's community forum link.
<http://www.sandiego-online.com>

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Real Estate



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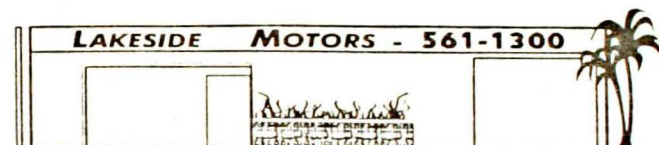
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